31

5

The present application is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/228,872, filed January 12, 1999 and entitled "Method and Apparatus For Distributing Pages To Individual Print Engines In A Multiple Print Engine," (Atty. Dkt. No. TRSY-23,677) which is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/698,999, filed August 16, 1996 and entitled "Multiple Print Engine With Virtual Job Routing" (Attorney Docket No. TRSY-23,684) which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/511,641, filed March 2, 1998 and entitled "Virtual Single Printer Engine with Software Rip" (Attorney Docket No. TRSY-23,617), which application is a Continued Prosecution Application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/511,641, filed August 7, 1995 and entitled "Virtual Single Printer Engine with Software Rip" (Attorney Docket No. TRSY-23,617) now abandoned.--

10

## IN THE CLAIMS

N.E.

Please delete Claims 1-4 in the present application and insert the following claims:

5

5

--5. A method for automatically processing printer errors occurring during printing of a print job in a virtual printer system wherein each virtual printer is configurable with a plurality of print engines, comprising the steps of:

detecting occurrence of an error condition during printing of at least a portion of a print job in one of the print engines in the virtual printer; and

re-routing the remainder of the at least a portion of the print job not processed by the one print engine to a second print engine in the virtual printer system.--

90f: -6.

The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of detecting comprises the steps

reading an error status signal generated by a print engine;

interrupting the at least a portion of the print job in which the error status

signal was generated; and

releasing the print engine from the virtual printer system in which the error condition occurred.--

The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of re-routing comprises the --7. steps of:

defining the remainder of the at least a portion of the print job; and attaching a separator page to the remainder of the at least a portion of the print job.--

The method of Claim 7, wherein the step of defining comprises the step --8. of:

defining the remainder of the at least a portion of the print job as the unprinted part of the at least a portion of the print job including the page of the at least a portion of the print job whereupon the error occurred.--

The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of attaching comprises the steps --9. of:

creating a separator page associated with the remainder of the at least a portion of the print job; and

attaching the separator page to the remainder of the at least a portion of the print job.--

The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of creating a separator page --10. comprises the step of:

designating an additional page to be inserted in the at least a portion of the print job following the last page that resulted in generation of an end-of-page signal.--

The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of re-routing comprises the --11. steps of:

reconfiguring the virtual printer system if a second print engine in the virtual printer system is not available;

printing the re-routed remainder of the at least a portion of the print job; and assembling the pages of the print job printed after re-routing with the pages of the print job printed before re-routing.--

5

5

5

5

5

5

5

Br

--12. An apparatus for automatically processing printer errors occurring during printing of a print job in a virtual printer system wherein each virtual printer is configurable with a plurality of print engines, comprising:

a detector for detecting occurrence of an error condition during printing of at least a portion of a print job in one of the print engines in the virtual printer; and

a router for re-routing the remainder of the at least a portion of the print job not processed by the one print engine to a second print engine in the virtual printer system.--

G)2/3.

The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said detector comprises:
a reading device for reading an error status signal generated by a print

engine;

an interrupt device for interrupting said at least a portion of said print job in which said error status signal was generated; and

a device for releasing said print engine from said virtual printer system in which said error condition occurred.--

--14. The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said router comprises:

a remainder determination device for defining said remainder of said at least a portion of said print job; and

an attaching device for attaching a separator page to said remainder of said at least a portion of said print job.--

--15. The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said remainder determination device is operable:

to define said remainder of said at least a portion of said print job as the unprinted part of said at least a portion of said print job including the page of said at least a portion of said print job whereupon said error occurred.--

--16. The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said attaching device comprises:

a separator device for creating a separator page associated with said remainder of said at least a portion of said print job prior to said attaching device attaching said separator page to said remainder of said at least a portion of said print